

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

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TAGS: TECH

SUBJ: VISIT OF JOHN FOSTER, AECL, TO ERDA ON MARCH 4

JOHN FOSTER, PRESIDENT OF AECL, AND FOUR OF HIS SENIOR OFFICERS VISITED ERDA ON MARCH 4 TO DISCUSS U.S.-CANADIAN ACTIVITIES IN THE NUCLEAR ENERGY FIELD.

THE FIRST AREA OF DISCUSSION INVOLVED THE REPORT PREPARED BY THE ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY IN LATE 1975 ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF A HEAVY WATER REACTOR IN THE U.S. A COPY OF THIS REPORT WAS PROVIDED TO AECL IN EARLY JANUARY, 1976, AND FOSTER PRESENTED AECL'S REACTION TO THE REPORT. SINCE ERDA PLANS TO AMEND THE ANL REPORT, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE STAFFS OF AECL AND ERDA WILL WORK TOGETHER IN AN EFFORT TO INCORPORATE AECL'S COMMENTS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.

THE SECOND AREA OF DISCUSSION WAS ON THE SUBJECT OF AECL'S PLAN FOR A THORIUM U-233 FUEL CYCLE FOR THE CANDU SYSTEM. THE CANADIANS RE INTERESTED IN A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH ERDA IN THIS AREA. IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY OF VALUE TO THE
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U.S. THORIUM FUEL CYCLE PROGRAM, THE CANADIANS WILL NOT HAVE

MUCH TO OFFER FOR SOME TIME TO COME AND, AS A RESULT, NO COMMENT-
MENTS WERE MADE BY ERDA TO COOPERATE AT THIS TIME. ERDA EX-
PLORED THE POSSIBILITY OF EXPANDING COOPERATION WITH CANADA
IN THE WASTE MANAGEMENT FIELD AND THE CANADIANS WERE VERY RECEPTIVE
TO THIS IDEA. A NEW AREA OF INTEREST IS THE DISPOSAL OF HIGH
LEVEL WASTES IN GEOLOGIC FORMATION OF COMMON INTEREST AND
AVAILABILITY TO THE U.S. AND CANADA.

THE POSSIBILITY OF AN OVERALL NUCLEAR ENERGY AGREEMENT WAS
DISCUSSED, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT WOULD BE
DESIRABLE AND SHOULD BE AN "UMBRELLA TYPE". PROTOCOLS WOULD
BE PREPARED UNDER THE UMBRELLA AGREEMENT TO COVER COOPERATION
IN SPECIFIC FIELDS. TWO PROTOCOLS ARE UNDER ACTIVE CONSIDERATION,
ONE ON SYSTEMS ANALYSIS OF THE HEAVY WATER REACTOR, AND THE
OTHER ON WASTE MANAGEMENT. OTHER AREAS MAY BE ADDED AS MUTUALLY
AGREED UPON. ERDA WILL PREPARE DRAFT UMBRELLA AGREEMENT AND
WILL SEND IT THRU STATE TO THE EMBASSY WITHIN NEXT WEEK FOR
TRANSMITTAL TO AECL. THIS WILL ALLOW AECL ADEQUATE TIME TO
REVIEW THE DRAFT ARRANGEMENT PRIOR TO DR. ROBERTS AND A. GIAMBUSSO
VISIT TO CANADA ON MARCH 23 AND 24. THEY WILL VISIT THE BRUCE
AND PICKERING NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS ON THE 23RD AND THE CHALK
RIVER LABORATORIES ON THE 24TH. KISSINGER

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